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Plastic Seas and Vanishing Coral: Human Impact on Ocean Pollution and Marine Life

Our magnificent oceans, covering over 70% of the Earth's surface, are teeming with life and provide us with vital resources. However, the impact of human activities on our oceans is causing unprecedented harm. From plastic pollution to overfishing and climate change, the health of our oceans and the creatures that call them home are in peril.

Human Activities and Ocean Pollution

Human activities have led to a surge in ocean pollution, endangering marine ecosystems. One of the primary culprits is plastic pollution. Single-use plastics, such as bottles and bags, often end up in the ocean, where they break down into microplastics, harming marine life and ecosystems. Other pollutants, like oil spills and toxic chemicals, also pose a significant threat to the health of our oceans.

Plastic Pollution's Impact

Plastic pollution is particularly concerning because it affects marine life at all levels. Sea turtles and seabirds may ingest plastic debris, mistaking it for food, leading to injury or death. Microplastics can enter the food chain, ultimately ending up on our plates. Coral reefs, some of the most diverse ecosystems on Earth, are also at risk due to plastic pollution.

Overfishing and Depletion of Marine Resources

Overfishing is another major concern. As the global demand for seafood grows, many fish populations are being overexploited, leading to the depletion of marine resources. Some species are on the brink of extinction due to unsustainable fishing practices, threatening the balance of marine ecosystems.

Climate Change and Ocean Acidification

Human-induced climate change is causing rising sea temperatures and ocean acidification, affecting marine life worldwide. Coral reefs are particularly vulnerable, with rising temperatures leading to coral bleaching events that can result in the loss of entire reef ecosystems. Ocean acidification, caused by increased carbon dioxide absorption, weakens the shells and skeletons of marine organisms like mollusks and corals.

Chris Jordan

Chris Jordan is an environmental artist and photographer renowned for his powerful visual narratives that highlight the consequences of human consumption and waste. His artwork often features depictions of marine debris, such as plastic bottles and cigarette lighters, collected from remote islands. Jordan's work aims to raise awareness about the devastating impact of plastic pollution on marine life.

